



(U) The Collection Association (CA)

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(U//FOUO) The NSA Collection Association (CA) was established 26 years ago to serve NSA collection and associated interests by providing Community-wide recognition and unique opportunities for professional growth in collection and related disciplines. The Collection Association membership has played a role in the many successes of NSA at one point or another in their career. They tend to care strongly about the collection field and work every day to continue to learn, to improve, to research, to manage, to look at or for new intelligence environments. They also work to pass on to the next generation the knowledge that at times only comes with years of experience--not from books-- to assist the future collectors in upholding the high standards of the collection field.

(S//SI) Through the years, the role of the collector has evolved from that of searching through the frequency spectrum with a receiver with "line of sight" ground antennas to that of using satellite receivers allowing collectors a larger area of coverage. Many people still think of collectors as being the folks that "sit rack", but the changing intelligence environment has provided collectors a wide choice of areas to perform their skills. We still have High Frequency (HF) environment collectors that "sit racks" and "roll up on their targets" each day and identify their targets by their operating characteristics or map a network of transmitters within hours or days. But we now have engineers who go TDY to set up equipment in the field and do surveys. Their official title may be engineer, but when they collect data, for that moment, they are a collector. Even the folks searching the Internet for information, whether it is the written word, hidden message, etc.-- they are collectors when they search and pull information from the web.

(U//FOUO) During its life, the CA has recognized several individuals with yearly awards. These awards were established not only to recognize outstanding collectors and collection managers yearly, but to honor those individuals whose names identify the awards and who played an integral role in the collection community, as well as the Collection Association. The CA Awards that are presented each year to deserving individuals are the Ardisana Collector of the Year Award, the Thomas Mooney Collection Manager of the Year, the William Hunt, Sr. Technical Literature Award. In 1997, the team award named for Norbert H. Syzmanowski, commonly known as "Ski Team Award", was created and was presented for the first time in 1998. For more information on these awards and a list of winners, check out our [awards page](#).

(U//FOUO) For further information on the Collection Association and how to become a member, check out the [Collection Association web page](#) or contact any of the [Officers or Members-at-Large](#). You may also type "go ca" in Webworld.

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